

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim [[5]]8 wherein the RSP apparatus is supplied continuously by withdrawing sludge after possible thickening in a separator-thickener that collects activated sludge leaving the biological treatment reactor.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of wastewater treatment station sludge, comprising the steps:

purifying the wastewater with fixed biological cultures from which excess sludge is extracted intermittently during phases of washing;

sending the water coming from ~~the each~~ washing phase[[,]] that provides fixed biological cultures[[,]] to a ~~solid/liquid~~ solid/liquid separator from which a quantity of sludge [[Is]]is extracted;

subjecting by biological activated sludge treatment, said extracted quantity of sludge, the outlet of this stage not recycling effluent to the front end of a water treatment line of the wastewater treatment station;

subjecting part of effluent coming from the biological activated sludge treatment to a stage of reduced sludge production (RSP), ~~selectively~~, by thermophilic enzymatic action or by partial oxidation by ozone introduced by mechanical stirring, this stage of RSP being supplied by quantities of sludge from the step of biological treatment by activated sludge, the substrate source for the bacteria of the biological treatment

including organic material derived from lysed bacterial cells induced during the RSP stage.

8. (New) A device for implementing the method set forth in claim 7 comprising:
an apparatus for reduced sludge production (RSP) that produces lysed bacterial cells; and.

a reactor substrate having, as its source for bacteria, organic material that is derived from the lysed bacterial cells.